

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T CAIRO 03707

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

FROM ATHERTON

U.S. DEL NO. 35

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG US
SUBJECT: REPORT TO ISRAELIS ON MEETINGS WITH SADAT
- AND KAMEL

1. WILL BE SENDING FULL REPORTS BY SEPTELS LATER TODAY
ON MY MEETINGS THIS MORNING AND EARLY AFTERNOON WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL AND PRESIDENT SADAT. ONCE THOSE
HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND REVIEWED IN DEPARTMENT, I RECOMMEND
AMBASSADOR LEWIS BE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF DAYAN ON THE BASIS
OF THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

2. ATHERTON HAD A ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
KAMEL WEDNESDAY MORNING AND AN HOUR WITH SADAT EARLY
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. SADAT'S IDEAS ON HOW TO PROCEED
IN THE NEGOTIATIONS STILL SEEM TO BE EVOLVING, AND IT
IS THEREFORE NOT CERTAIN THAT WHAT HE HAD TO SAY TODAY
IS THE FINAL WORD. HE DID, HOWEVER, CONFIRM THAT HE
SEES COMPLETION OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AS THE
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FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS FOLLOWING HIS TRIP. HE BELIEVES
THIS SHOULD AND CAN BE DONE QUICKLY. AFTER THAT THE
POLITICAL COMMITTEE SHOULD RECONVENE TO WORK SIMULTANEOUSLY
ON "PALESTINIAN QUESTION" AND "DRAFT TREATY FOR A COMPRE-
HENSIVE SETTLEMENT," WHICH HE AGREED ARE IN EFFECT POINTS
B AND C ON THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA. SADAT DID NOT
GO INTO THE QUESTION OF THE LOCATION AND OTHER MODALITIES

FOR A RECONVENED POLITICAL COMMITTEE. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A "CLEAR, PRECISE" DECLARATION IN ORDER TO GET HUSSEIN TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS (SADAT DID NOT MENTION THE SYRIANS OR THE PALESTINIANS). VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK, WHO WAS PRESENT AND HAD JUST RETURNED FROM HIS TEN-COUNTRY TOUR, SAID FLATLY THAT HUSSEIN WAS READY TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS ONCE A DECLARATION HAD BEEN AGREED UPON. THIS IS A FIRMER READING OF HUSSEIN'S VIEWS THAN THE KING GAVE ATHERTON, AND WE WOULD NOT AT THIS STAGE TAKE IT AS THE FINAL WORD FROM HUSSEIN. SADAT SEEMED MORE RELAXED THAN KAMEL ABOUT THE NEED TO PRESS HUSSEIN TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS, APPEARING ALMOST TO TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT HUSSEIN WOULD COME IN. UNLIKE KAMEL, HE DID NOT INSIST HUSSEIN MUST JOIN BEFORE THERE COULD BE ANY DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM B.

3. KAMEL GAVE ATHERTON SUGGESTED EGYPTIAN CHANGES IN THE JANUARY 20 DRAFT DECLARATION WHICH THE SECRETARY HAD LEFT WITH SADAT AND WHICH ATHERTON PROVIDED THE ISRAELIS WHEN HE RETURNED TO JERUSALEM. A NUMBER OF THE EGYPTIAN CHANGES REVERT TO EARLIER EGYPTIAN POSITIONS WITH WHICH THE ISRAELIS ARE FAMILIAR FROM THEIR TALKS WITH EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN ISMAILIYA AND JERUSALEM. KAMEL PROVIDED NO SPECIFIC REACTIONS TO THE CHANGES SUGGESTED BY ISRAEL WHICH ATHERTON HAD CONVEYED TO HIM ON TUESDAY ON THE BASIS
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OF HIS TALKS WITH DAYAN AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN JERUSALEM. THE CHANGES SUGGESTED BY KAMEL, HOWEVER, MOVE FOR THE MOST PART IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM THOSE SUGGESTED BY THE ISRAELIS. THE EGYPTIANS INDICATED TO ATHERTON A CLEAR PREFERENCE TO DEFER FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES UNTIL AFTER SADAT'S VISIT TO THE STATES. WE DO NOT SEE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE IN CONVEYING SUGGESTED EGYPTIAN CHANGES TO ISRAELIS AT THIS STAGE, SINCE THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THE TEXT OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES COULD CHANGE FOLLOWING THE SADAT VISIT. THE KEY POINT IS THAT BOTH SADAT AND KAMEL ARE THINKING, AT LEAST AS OF NOW, IN TERMS OF CONTINUING TO WORK FOR AN AGREED DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL REASSURE DAYAN WITH RESPECT TO THE CONCERNS HE EXPRESSED TO ATHERTON IN THIS REGARD. EILTS

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